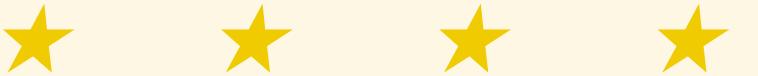




Rep. Witkos works on the floor of the House of Representatives.



TEEN INTERNET SAFETY

Helpful state website

Recent tragedies resulting from teen use of the MySpace.com website is a reminder to us that the Internet is a fantastic tool, but one where we should exercise particular caution regarding children and teen use.

The State of Connecticut offers a website located at www.ct.gov/cybersafe to help citizens learn more about safety and security on the Internet.

Another website, www.safeteens.com, includes a number of links and basic rules for online safety for teens, guidelines for parents, blog safety information and a link to the staysafe.org website, which also provides helpful information.

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

\$2.3 Billion Package Will Improve Connecticut Transit

House Bill 5844 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period.

Projects to be funded include capitol improvements to branch rail lines and \$60 million for new parking and rail stations on New Haven Line. It will also plan completion of a link between the port of New Haven and commuter rails and develop second rail passenger station between New Haven and Milford.

Also, safety improvements are planned for the Route 10 and Avon Mountain area.

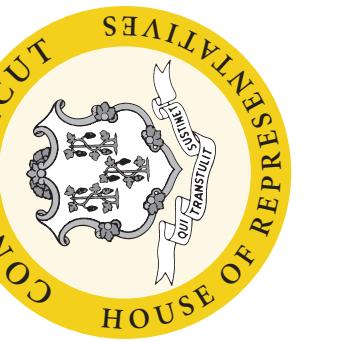


State Representative

KEVIN WITKOS

Proudly Serving the 17th District
Avon ★ Canton

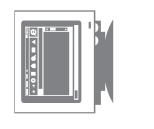
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Representative Kevin Witkos
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:
(860) 240-8700

E-MAIL:
kevin.witkos@cgat.ct.gov



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www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
KEVIN WITKOS
Proudly Serving the 17th District
Avon ★ Canton



State Representative Kevin Witkos

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. It has been a privilege representing and serving the people of Avon and Canton. As your state representative, I will continue to work and fight for those issues important to you. I am pleased to provide you my annual end of year session report, highlighting some of the legislation and issues we addressed this session.

Truly Yours,

Kevin Witkos
State Representative

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142, which I cosponsored, will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.



Rep. Witkos works with Rep. Brendan Sharkey of Hamden in the House Chamber on Probate Court legislation during the 2006 Session.

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

There were several good points in the 2006-2007 budget package. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income tax, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offer tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.

This year I introduced legislation that would have repealed the state's 25 cent per gallon gas tax between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Unfortunately, majority party leaders refused to take the item up.



Rep. Witkos speaks at the Bicentennial Celebration for the Town of Canton.

Grants for Avon and Canton

I was pleased to successfully work to obtain a grant for the Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. to obtain the Sweeton Pasture Lot. The parcel consists of 43.7 acres of hardwood forest with 1,380 feet of frontage on Bunker Hill Road. The grant, totaling \$85,747.50, will protect a 60-acre block on both sides of Bunker Hill Road. I also worked to secure \$150,000 to Avon for the purpose of acquiring and constructing a handicap accessible playground on Buckingham Road. The Avon Playgrounds for all Kids Inc. (PAK) has been trying to raise funds for three years to complete this part of the Buckingham Park project. PAK's mission is to fund and build fully accessible premier playgrounds that will be fun and challenging for children of all abilities.

Saving For Education

The state budget package also creates a deduction on the state income tax for contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET--the state-sponsored college savings plan). It will allow taxpayers to carry forward any unused deductions for the five following years as long as each deduction does not exceed the annual maximums, which are \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers.

Home Weatherization Incentives

Public Act 06-187 exempts residential weatherization and energy efficiency products and energy efficient heating equipment from sales tax for 13 months, from June 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.



Rep. Witkos at the dedication of the Sgt. Michael Dubiel Memorial Bridge in Collinsville. The bridge on Rt 179 is across the Farmington River.
Sgt. Michael Dubiel was an Avon Resident.

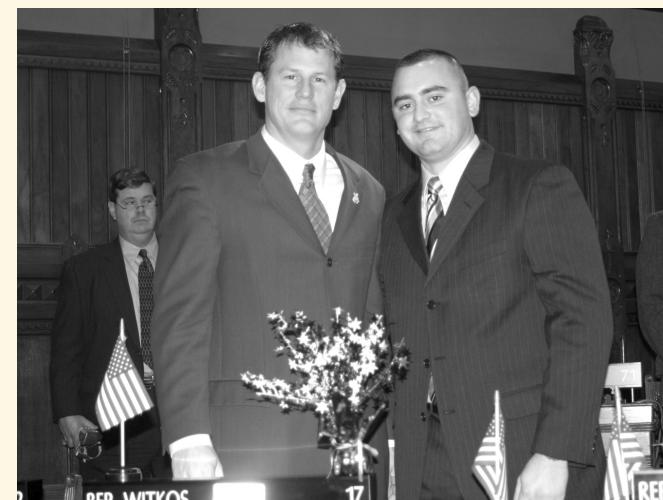
SENIORS

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations. These agencies must also require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks.



Rep. Witkos is joined by fellow Canton Police Officer Derek Messier on the floor of the House.